

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, on the sand bar of Smith and Ross Islands (13° 18' 15" N; 93° 04' 21" E) in North Andamans on March 18, 2010. I was not sure about its identification so I clicked a few photographs. On further observations through a 10 x 5 binocular, the face looked much whiter compared to that of a Kentish Plover, and the legs were orangish with longer tarsus, more white on wings (in flight). Literature survey (Grimmett *et al.* 1999; Kazmierczak 2000; Rasmussen and Anderton 2005) could not help in identification.

After coming back I searched [www.orientalbirdimages.org](http://www.orientalbirdimages.org), unsuccessfully, for different races of Kentish Plover. I refined my web-search, and looked for the term "White-faced" Plover (after its characteristics) without knowing of the existence of such a bird. My search ended at a published paper on a bird called "White-faced" Plover by Peter Kennerley.

The bird spotted at Andaman and Nicobar Islands matched the descriptions and photographs of the "White-faced" Plover *Charadrius dealbatus* in Kennerley *et al.* (2008). After confirming the identification I visited the BNHS collection where I found six specimens of 'dealbatus', but all from south-east Asia. Therefore, this is the first record of *Charadrius dealbatus* for the Indian subcontinent.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Mr. Peter Kennerley for confirming the identification of the bird. I thank Mr. Vithoba Hegde, Senior Field Assistant, BNHS, for showing the specimens in the BNHS Collection.

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### 9. FIRST RECORD OF THE HUME'S LEAF-WARBLER *PHYLLOSCOPUS HUMEI* FROM KACHCHH, GUJARAT, INDIA

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Hume's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus humei* breeds from Central Asia to West Mongolia. It winters in gardens, orchards, and dry-deciduous forests in the Indian subcontinent from c. 1,400 m downwards to the plains of northern Pakistan and peninsular India south to Belgaum, Hyderabad and Anantagiri, east to lower hills of Sikkim; Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh (Ali and Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 1999; Kazmierczak 2000; Rasmussen and Anderton 2005).

In Gujarat, specimens of the Hume's Leaf-warbler were collected from Bodeli and Dabka, Baroda district, and from Mheskatri, Surat Dangs (Ali 1955). The species is not listed in THE BIRDS OF KUTCH (Ali 1945). Jugal Tiwari (pers. comm.), a former scientist of the BNHS, who has been birding in the Kachchh area since the 1990s has had no sighting of the species in the area.

During a BNHS birding camp in Kachchh, I spotted a Leaf-warbler at around 4-5 m height in the canopy of a tree

on December 24, 2009, at 17:00 hrs in the Chadwa Private Reserve (23° 09' N; 69° 28' E) near Pragsar lake, 15 km south-west of Bhuj. On further observations through 10 x 5 binoculars, I noted it to have two white wing-bars and, a dark bill and legs, suggestive of Hume's Leaf-warbler. We observed the bird for 15 minutes, it gave a short *tze-weet* call, further confirming its identity, and record of occurrence in Kachchh. The similar Yellow-browed Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* has yellowish wing-bars and ear-coverts, pale lower mandible, paler legs and has a different call (Kazmierczak 2000).

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## 10. AN OBSERVATIONAL NOTE ON GANGETIC *LATIA CROSSOCHEILUS LATIUS LATIUS* IN KHOH RIVER, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

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The taxonomic description of many freshwater fishes has been illustrated earlier by taxonomists in the country. The information on general behaviour, including their migration, reproduction, feeding habits of many freshwater fishes are poorly known.

During my M.Sc. dissertation study from November 2004 to April 2005 on the conservation status of freshwater fishes in the tributaries of River Ramganga in Uttarakhand, I made an interesting observation on *Crossocheilus latius* in the Koh river (Atkore 2005). It is a specialized hill stream fish widely distributed in the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Mahanadi rivers and upper catchment of Krishna river basin in the Western Ghats (Talwar and Jhingran 1991). The species can grow up to 16.5 cm and prefers boulders, gravel bottom and swift flowing section of the channel unit.

It was originally described as *Cyprinus latius* in 1822 by Hamilton Buchanan in his 'GANGETIC FISHES FROM THE TISTA' from the base of Darjeeling Himalayas. He classified this fish as *Cyprinus garra* due to certain similar morphological features and habits that the fish has in common with some species of *Garra* (Mukerji 1934).

On March 12, 2004, I was surveying fish in the Koh river along with my field assistant Bahadur. The shrubby vegetation along the bank and big boulders made it difficult for the fish to move upstream. A deep pool had formed at the bottom of the boulders, but some species, especially Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii*, were jumping over boulders to move upstream. One species caught my attention, it was *Crossocheilus latius*. Three individuals of this species were attached to a boulder and slowly moving upstream. Unlike the other species, these were crawling and not jumping over the boulders. While doing so, they lost contact with water for sometime. I observed their movement for ten minutes

16:20 hrs to 16:30 hrs from a close distance. The height of the boulder above the water column was 2.2 m and the width was 0.6 m. The boulder was moist due to intermittent water contact. The lower part of the boulder had algal growth. It seems that this species showed local migratory movement. I did not find any feeding marks by this species on the exposed boulders in this observation. Buchanan (1822) believed that *Crossocheilus latius* was an ancestor of *Garra*. Hora (1921) confirmed that *Crossocheilus* species resemble *Garra* in its structure of air-bladder and the skeleton of the mouthparts.

Available literature on the ecology of species was limited. However, Hora and Mukerji (1936) noted that *Garra gotyla* and *Crossocheilus latius* may compete for food (algae) in the same habitat but they did not provide any data to support their observation. Previous study showed that, *Garra gotyla* was relatively dominant (13.55%) than *Crossocheilus latius latius* (0.44%) in Koh river (Atkore 2005). Again, with this data it may be difficult to conclude that these two species compete with each other for the same food resource. However, this needs further close observation on feeding behaviour or data on gut content of both these species from the same habitat in order to prove this.

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